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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 1 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the following reservations on the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Cameroon underscores that the content of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be interpreted and implemented in a manner consistent with the national legislation and development priorities of countries, as well as cultural and ethical values and religious background, and in line with internationally recognized human rights.

With regard to paragraph 19 of the declaration and target 10.2, we do not view the phrase "other status" as applying to sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples or lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT).

As for "information and education" in relation to universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as mentioned in target 3.7, they should be age-appropriate, and Cameroon denies that such a reference may be defined to include "comprehensive sexuality education". Cameroon further reaffirms that the "prior right" of parents to choose the kind of education given to their children, a right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, must be respected. The use of the terms "information and education" in relation to universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services cannot imply any right of young children or adolescents to access any service without regard for parental responsibility, or the obligation to provide them with information and services that are neither lawful nor acceptable at the national level.

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With respect to target 5.4, Cameroon understands "within the household" only as defined in reference to "the family." The family, founded on the marriage of a man and a woman, is the natural and fundamental group unit of society.

Cameroon also enters an express reservation on target 5.6, which reads: "Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences".

Cameroon wishes to express a reservation on all terms and all possible interpretations in the document that are in contravention of our national laws. Target 5.6 or any other provision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, their implementation or interpretation shall in no case refer to or imply the concepts of sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender or abortion.

We understand the word "gender" throughout the document to refer only to "male and female". Furthermore, the use of the terms "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights" and related terms throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development does not create or presume the existence of a "right to abortion" under any circumstance.

Therefore, Cameroon will not accept at any point any policies, monitoring, evaluation or reporting on any provision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which will include or tend to include, explicitly or implicitly, the concepts of sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender or abortion.

In the same vein, Cameroon stresses that indicators for tracking progress on the agreed goals and targets should not invade national policy space or contradict national priorities on the above concepts, as per Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Cameroon is of the view that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all international instruments relating to human rights and international law reflected therein are not intended to standardize the cultural values of peoples around the globe. Thus, Cameroon will implement and interpret the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in full accordance with our national legislation as well as the ethical, cultural and religious values and convictions of our society and in line with internationally recognized human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 15 and 117 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Michel **Tommo Monthe**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative